

KATHLEEN M. RICE
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3204

**COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE**
SUBCOMMITTEES:
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

**COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY**
SUBCOMMITTEE:
CYBERSECURITY, INFRASTRUCTURE
PROTECTION, AND INNOVATION

April 27, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting \$400,000 in funding for West End Early Childhood Learning Center Project in Fiscal Year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Long Beach, located at 1 West Chester St, Long Beach, NY 11561.

The funding would be used for the creation of an Early Childhood Learning Center and to improve services already offered at the Long Beach West End Community Center.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Rice (NY-04)
Member of Congress

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April 27, 2021

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you begin crafting the Fiscal Year 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies bill, I respectfully request that you give consideration to the following funding priorities:

1. Provide a funding level of **\$700,000** for YouthBuild: Building Brighter Futures for Young Adults in the Town of Hempstead and the City of Long Beach as a community project funding request. The intended recipient is the United Way of Long Island located at 819 Grand Blvd. Deer Park, NY 11729. The project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because the YouthBuild program was identified as a needed workforce development service for at-risk young adults in Hempstead and the City of Long Beach. YouthBuild is a community-based pre-apprenticeship program that provides job training and educational opportunities for young people. Trainees learn vocational skills in construction, as well as other in-demand industries that include health care and information technology. Trainees provide community service through the construction of affordable housing for low-income or homeless families. Youth split their time between the vocational training work site and the classroom, where they learn to be community leaders, and prepare for postsecondary training opportunities, including college, apprenticeships, and employment. YouthBuild includes significant support systems, such as mentoring, employment, stipends, personal counseling services and scholarships for graduates.
2. Provide a funding level of **\$116,450** for The Corporate Source's (TCS) Information Technology Training & Certification Program for Individuals with Disabilities as a community project funding request. The intended recipient is The Corporate Source located at 1225 Franklin Avenue, Suite 335, Garden City, NY 11530. The project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because at present, there exists tremendous employment inequity for individuals with disabilities, with upwards of eighty percent not included in the



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workforce. TCS is absolutely committed to creating employment opportunities to improve disability hiring, inclusion and acceptance. This program ensures long-term success for students enrolled in the IT Training & Certification Program – before, during and after program completion. The goal has always been, and continues to be, creating opportunities for individuals with varying disabilities to thrive in the world of work and contribute their talents to society. Creating jobs and careers positively affects family members as well as people with disabilities themselves, since parents are relieved of caregiving tasks as their loved ones are productively employed.

3. Provide a funding level of **\$100,000** for the P.E.A.C.E. Afterschool Program as a community project funding request. The intended recipient is P.E.A.C.E. Afterschool Program, Inc. located at 100 Terrace Avenue, Ste. 110, Hempstead, NY 11550. The project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because P.E.A.C.E. Afterschool Program provides economic support for families who, especially during this challenging time, need relief for childcare and educational support for their children. Educational support is critical to breaking the school to prison pipeline which takes a toll on families and society at large. P.E.A.C.E. Afterschool Program provides Social Emotional Learning support for students and families to cope with stress during this challenging time. This project will provide educational supports for youth ages 15-21 so that they find success in the workforce. The project would also provide youth employment opportunities as monies are reserved for Summer STEAM Camp employment as junior counselors.
4. Provide a funding level of **\$149,993.50** for PFY (formerly, Pride for Youth) as a community project funding request. The intended recipient is the Long Island Crisis Center, Inc. located at 2740 Martin Avenue, Bellmore NY 11710. The project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because PFY's Programs and Services reach over 11,000 LGBTQ Long Islanders and their families and allies annually. Individuals who engage in supportive mental health services from a young age are less likely to need lifelong mental health services, saving money for taxpayers over time.
5. Provide a funding level of **\$1,000,000** for Hempstead Health Center Renovation as a community project funding request. The intended recipient is Long Island FQHC, Inc. located at 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 300, Westbury, NY 11590. The project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because when an uninsured or under-insured individual does not have access to primary care and visits an emergency room for primary care treatment, the costs are two to three times more than what it would be in a community setting. These additional costs are typically paid for with taxpayer dollars. In Nassau County, roughly 72% of all emergency room visits are avoidable as patients seek care in the Emergency Room versus going to their primary care provider. This new Hempstead Health Center would provide more services to the community thus reducing avoidable emergency department

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usage. Over 20% of current visits are same day walk-in visits. By adding new services and combining the Care Management Program within the same building, focus can be shifted to the social determinants of health which are the real underlying causes of costly medical care. Thus, reducing costs to taxpayers who are stuck reimbursing high in-patient costs for uninsured patients that could be better served in a community setting. Health Centers are a good investment of taxpayer dollars as they have a positive economic impact on our communities. Data from 2019 shows that the Long Island FQHC, Inc. had a positive impact to Nassau County of over \$72 million dollars while caring for over 37,000 patients, 60% of whom live below the federal poverty level.

6. Provide a funding level of **\$ \$400,000** for the West End Early Childhood Learning Center as a community project funding request. The intended recipient is the City of Long Beach located at 1 West Chester St, Long Beach, NY 11561. The project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because access to affordable and quality daycare services is very limited for working families and those with low to moderate income. Early childhood education is about honing and molding the holistic child, which will eventually form the basis of their lifelong journey. Children and their families will benefit from this program by improving the child's socialization and concept of cooperation, encouraging holistic development, creating lifelong learners, conveying the value of education through experience, developing respect, the ability to work in teams, building resiliency, developing concentration, and building their confidence and self-esteem.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Rice (NY-04)
Member of Congress